

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4459
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of increase in the cases of discrimination against women hailing from the North-Eastern States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted/sponsored or proposes to conduct/sponsor any study, including studies in association with Central universities in this regard and if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (d) the action plan of the Government including launching of awareness programmes to prevent such incidents in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) to (c): Government has taken note of increase in the cases of discrimination against women hailing from the North-Eastern States of the country. Government has not conducted /sponsored or proposes to conduct/sponsor any study, including studies in association with Central universities in this regard.

(d): Safety of women in the country is of utmost priority for the Government. The Ministry is endeavouring to put in place effective mechanisms to provide safe environment for women to work and live and fulfil their potential. Ministry recognize that incidence of crime against women cannot be controlled unless mindsets of people, in general, are made to change. Continuous awareness creation among men and women in the society through workshops, seminars, street plays, Nari ki Chaupals, Beti Janmotsav at the district level. In collaboration with Ministry of Panchayati Raj Special (Mahila) Gram Sabhas have also been conducted. Further, advertisements in the press and electronic media educating peoples about issues of domestic violence, Child Sex Ratio and Child Marriage etc also being taken up. Platforms such as the International Women's Day and the National Girl Child Day are used to create awareness on issues related to women and to bring to the centre stage issues such as sex selective abortions and child marriage. Through Sabla programme of this Ministry, adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 18 years are imparted about their rights.

On the legislation front, the Ministry of Women and Child Development have enacted the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005; Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961; Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986; and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 and Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA). There are provisions under IPC and CrPC which prescribe punishment for crime against women like rape, molestation, eve-teasing etc. Recently the Government has amended the Law and made punishment for sexual assault more stringent.